

To: Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Physician Clinics, Physicians, HealthCheck Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Correction to Guidelines for Reimbursement for On-Site Blood Lead Testing

This *BadgerCare Plus Update* replaces the April 2008 *Update* (2008-27), titled "Guidelines for Reimbursement for On-Site Blood Lead Testing."

Guidelines for On-Site Blood Lead Testing

Effective immediately, providers who currently hold a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) certificate of waiver or higher complexity CLIA certification level may be reimbursed for on-site blood lead testing using LeadCare II or similar CLIA-waived instruments if the following guidelines are met:

- Providers are successfully participating in the proficiency testing (PT) program as administered by the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH) or another Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-approved proficiency testing program.
- Providers are reporting all lead testing results, regardless of the lead level, to the Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (WCLPPP) as required.

To be reimbursed for the on-site blood lead test, providers should indicate on the claim procedure code 83655 (Lead). Procedure code 99000 (Handling and/or conveyance of specimen for transfer from the physician's office to a laboratory) is not separately reimbursable when procedure code 83655 is billed. Providers are eligible to be reimbursed for an appropriate office visit.

On-site blood lead testing is covered under these guidelines for both the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan and the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan. There is no copayment for on-site blood lead testing in either plan.

Proficiency Testing

Reimbursement for on-site blood lead testing of BadgerCare Plus members is conditional on successful participation in the WSLH or other approved PT program. The WSLH program is currently available at no cost to participants. Performance must be consistent with 1988 CLIA regulatory requirements, regardless of the test method employed.

For additional information about PT, contact the WSLH at (608) 224-6252.

Reporting of Results

Providers are required to report all on-site blood lead test results to the WCLPPP, regardless of the lead level. For reporting requirements, refer to HFS 181, Wis. Admin. Code. Refer to Attachment A of HFS 181, Wis. Admin. Code, for the Blood Lead Lab Reporting Form. To establish a mechanism for reporting results, providers may call the WCLPPP at (608) 266-5817 and ask for the data manager.

Information Regarding Managed Care

This *Update* contains fee-for-service policy and applies to services members receive on a fee-for-service basis only. For managed care policy, contact the appropriate

managed care organization. BadgerCare Plus HMOs are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

The *BadgerCare Plus Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers. All information applies to Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus unless otherwise noted in the *Update*.

Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus are administered by the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, P.O. Box 309, Madison, WI 53701-0309.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or (608) 221-9883 or visit our Web site at dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/.

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